

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02843 092343Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----067155 092354Z /61

O 080301Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 326

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2843

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, PGOU, KS, US  
SUBJECT: ASSURANCES IN RESPONSE TO BLUE HOUSE BUGGING

REF: A) STATE 86815; B) SEOUL 2749; C) SEOUL 2750;  
D) STATS89351

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE NOT DELIVER LETTER AND ENCOLSURE PROVIDED REF B. AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR, PAK SANG YONG, HAS INFORMED POL COUNS. THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY PREFERS NOT TO ACCEPT LETTER IN PRESENT FORM AND HE IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO RECEIVE LETTER AS NOW DRAFTED. IN TAKING THIS POSITION PAK SAID THAT, IN LIGHT OF ASSURANCES PROVIDED BY AMBASSADOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON APRIL 6, WHICH WERE

LATER MADE PUBLIC AS U.S. HAD AGREED, PRESENT FORM OF U.S. RESPONSE COULD ONLY BE VIEWED AS A RETREAT BY THE U.S. AND WOULD BE MORE OF AN EMBARRASSMENT THAN A HELP TO THE ROKG. PAK ALSO REFERRED TO STATEMENTS MADE TO AMBASSADOR KIM BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AS INDICATING THAT DEPARTMENT WAS WILLING TO GO FURTHER THAN PRESENT LETTER INDICATES IN PROVIDING WRITTEN ASSURANCES TO THE ROKG (EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED A REPORT OF THIS MEETING). PAK REQUEST THAT EMBASSY REQUEST WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF A NEW LETTER, WHICH WOULD CONTAIN ASSURANCES GIVEN ORALLY APRIL 6,

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PARAS ONE AND TWO, REF A, AND CONTAIN SOME EXPRESSION OF REGRET THAT MATTER HAS AGAIN BEEN RAISED AND CAUSED UNNECESSARY FUROR.

2. I HAVE DIRECTLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, AND POL. COUNS WITH PAK, MADE THE POINTS IN PARA ONE, REF D, STRESSING THAT WE HAVE GONE WELL BEYOND POLICY IN THIS CASE. RE-

SONSE, AS IN PAST, HAS BEEN REFERENCE TO RUSK LETTER TO SINGAPORE, COPY OF WHICH IS IN MOFA FILE. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY NEED NOT MAKE LETTER PUBLIC, BUT RATHER COULD REFER ONLY TO RECEIPT OF SATISFACTORY WRITTEN ASSURANCE, DRAWING ON ALL OR PART OF ENCLOSURE AS REQUIRED. DESPITE BEST EFFORTS AND EXPRESSION OF PERSONAL VIEWS THAT THIS REACTION BY ROKG WOULD NOT BE WELL RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON, FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTINUES ITS REQUEST THAT RECONSIDERATION OF LETTER TEXT BE SOUGHT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE CANNOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT ROKG WOULD MAKE TEXT OF LETTER AS THEY HAVE REQUESTED PUBLIC, AT THIS POINT MAJOR CONCERN APPEARS TO BE INTERNAL WITH MOFA HAVING PROMISED BLUE HOUSE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF MY ORAL ASSURANCES. WHILE I REALIZE THAT LETTER TEXT AS REQUESTED BY MOFA GOES BEYOND U.S. POLICY IN SUCH MATTERS, GIVEN THE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO MY APRIL 6 PRESENTATION, I CAN APPRECIATE ROKG CONCERNS AND REQUEST CONSIDERATION

OF MEETING THEIR NEED IN THIS MATTER.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Subject:** ASSURANCES IN RESPONSE TO BLUE HOUSE BUGGING  
**TAGS:** PINR, PGOV, KS, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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